

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 2, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,882,544 (Nakamura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,176,550 (Beek). It is respectfully submitted that claims 7-11 are patentable over Nakamura and Beek for at least the following reasons.

It is respectfully submitted that Nakamura and are Beek not prior art to the present application. The present application was PCT filed on April 10, 2003 and claims the benefit of a European Patent Application filed on April 11, 2002, which is thus the effective filing date of the present application.

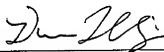
As the effective filing date of the present application of April 11, 2002 is before the Nakamura U.S. filing date of June 25, 2003, Nakamura is not available as prior art with regard to the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Similarly, as the

effective filing date of the present application of April 11, 2002 is before the Beek PCT filing date of August 14, 2002, Beek is not available as prior art with regard to the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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